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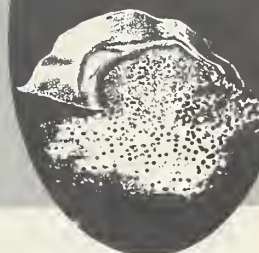
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SEEDS



SEEDS
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SEED TRADE BETWEEN U.S. AND JAPAN

CONTINUES TO INCREASE

Japan is a seed-conscious country, being a producer, an exporter, and an importer. It produces vegetable seed, flower seed, and bulbs in large quantities and exports them in amounts averaging nearly \$750 thousand per year. More than half of its seed and bulb exports, in dollar value, come to the United States. On the other hand, Japan depends upon the United States for its supply of grass, legume, and field seeds. It imports more than 90 percent of its total supply of these seeds from this country.

The Japanese are able to produce hand-pollinated hybrids at a lower cost than is possible in the United States. Flower seed is the forerunner of this type of production and it has assumed substantial proportions.

The expanding use of hybrid varieties of flowers and vegetables in the United States is increasing the interest of American seed importers in the technical skills and low cost of production available in Japan. A number of U.S. firms have contracted with Japanese firms for the multiplication of their seeds. Similar work is also being done for Hawaii. Much Japanese seed is produced under glass or plastic-covered houses.

Green Jade Brussel sprouts, originated in Japan, have shown up very well in trials in the United States and will be introduced here in 1959 as just one example of the skill of the Japanese in the field of plant breeding.

Forage improvement work conducted in northern Japan apparently has been so successful that it will be extended to the whole country. This means increased imports of grass and legume seeds suitable for use in Japan. These seeds cannot be grown in Japan in sufficient quantities to meet domestic requirements primarily because of the climate. The rainy season during the summer months makes the harvest of seed requiring considerable land area extremely difficult. The method of growing seed under glass or plastic-covered houses can only be used for those seeds occupying the minimum of space.

With increased U.S. interest in hybrid varieties of vegetables and flowers produced in Japan and, with the Japanese program for improvement of forage resources, the 2-way seed trade between Japan and the United States will continue to increase.

Production

Japanese production of grass and legume seeds is primarily limited to red clover, timothy, and orchard grass. Not enough of these seeds are produced to meet Japan's requirements.

Field seed production consists of milk vetch (*astragalus sinicus*), fodder turnip, and rutabaga. Production of these seeds is very difficult because of the summer rainfall.

Vegetable and flower seed production is a widespread industry in Japan and many lily bulbs, tulip and other bulbs are produced.

Foreign Trade

The United States is a major market for Japanese flower seeds and bulbs. The shipments of Japanese vegetable seeds to the United States have recently shown an increase and this trend can be expected to continue as the use of hybrid varieties, especially those requiring hand pollination, increases.

The planned improvement of forage resources of Japan will necessitate substantial imports into that country of grass and legume seeds for many years. Data for the Japanese fiscal year, April 1957-March 1958, indicate that Japan purchased from the United States \$491 thousand worth of grass and legume seeds. This is an increase of 145 percent over the 5-year average of \$120 thousand for the calendar years, 1952 through 1956.

Japan is the principal supplier of seeds for the Orient and this now includes seed potatoes.

There is considerable trade between Japan and several European countries, particularly the Netherlands, United Kingdom, France, West Germany and Denmark.

Seed Standards

The Japanese have 2 standards, one for domestic trade which also applies to imported seeds; the other, which is the higher standard, is applied to all seeds for export.

All imported seeds are subject to monetary licenses. However, these licenses are automatically available for a specified list of grass and legume seeds.

Japan: Average value of total exports of specified seeds and bulbs and exports to United States, 5 calendar years, 1952 through 1956

Variety	Total	United States
	<u>Dollars</u>	<u>Dollars</u>
Sugar beet	204	--
Vetch	611	--
Pasture grass	1,897	448
Vegetable and flower	230,504	72,046
Seeds for planting, nes	80,011	21,126
Bulbs, lily, tulip, etc.	429,900	304,539
5-year average	743,127	398,159

Japan: Average value of total imports of specified seeds and bulbs and imports from United States, 5 calendar years, 1952 through 1956

Variety	Total	United States
	<u>Dollars</u>	<u>Dollars</u>
Sugar beet	38,495	35,505
Vetch	17,967	4,565
Pasture grass	320,098	120,300
Vegetable and flower	85,416	56,629
Seeds for planting, nes	27,430	14,141
Bulbs, lily, tulip, etc.	67,113	5,474
5-year average	556,519	236,614

Source: Annual Return of Foreign Trade of Japan.

Japan: Imports of specified seeds from the United States,
Japanese fiscal year, April 1957 through March 1958

Variety	Quantity	Value
	<u>Pounds</u>	<u>Dollars</u>
Alfalfa	23,244	8,820
Alsike	18,870	4,982
Other clover	866,587	295,696
Fescue	35,889	6,321
Kentucky bluegrass	1,990	1,054
Orchardgrass	181,273	35,120
Timothy	207,770	35,779
Other grasses	310,106	103,026
Total grass & legumes	1,645,729	490,798
Field seed	366,775	32,465
Flower	454	1,091
Vegetable	43,610	30,267
Seeds, n.e.s.	1,624	9,869
Grand Total	2,058,192	564,490

Source: United States Bureau of the Census.

Japan: Production of vegetable seeds, 1953-56

Kind of Seed	1953	1954	1955	1956
	<u>1,000</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>1,000</u>
	<u>pounds</u>	<u>pounds</u>	<u>pounds</u>	<u>pounds</u>
Carrot	79	108	154	121
Onion, Welsh	47	37	48	46
Onion	135	102	137	154
Cabbage	64	91	85	74
Spinach	315	466	490	494
Peas, Garden	149	125	198	168

Source: Japanese Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

Japan: Value of principal seed exports, and country of destination,
1952 to 1956

Item and country of destination	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
Vegetable and Flower:					
United States	56,523	55,027	48,668	86,299	113,737
Brazil	5,525	3,278	18,274	22,424	34,194
Netherlands	2,658	25	1,453	1,739	25,641
Union of South Africa	--	--	2,922	1,720	4,081
Formosa	45,771	27,658	50,746	37,564	33,100
Hawaii	2,469	2,136	2,900	2,811	2,670
Hong Kong	5,004	3,500	7,264	15,773	13,504
Korean Republic	25,086	3,403	41,234	23,294	5,992
Okinawa	19,281	--	--	--	--
Philippine Republic	220	272	--	6,942	133
Ryukyu Islands	3,186	40,700	37,842	33,664	33,669
South Viet Nam	--	--	--	--	71,936
Other	6,353	8,718	9,517	13,258	30,764
Total	172,076	144,717	220,820	245,488	369,421
Seeds for planting, n.e.s.:					
United States	16,217	20,761	18,906	12,436	37,309
Brazil	3	--	--	1,995	--
Belgium	650	2,489	4,114	10,353	3,108
Denmark	--	--	1,003	89	3,511
France	344	4,014	9,247	1,431	10,406
West Germany	5,158	31,464	23,497	25,120	13,667
Netherlands	1,075	6,806	4,786	1,061	2,386
United Kingdom	5,389	13,439	15,814	21,681	15,447
Formosa	4,017	5,478	3,345	6,514	6,644
Hawaii	14	--	--	--	2,670
Korea	89	667	781	2,795	--
Okinawa	2,900	--	--	--	2,900
Ryukyu Islands	--	1,442	3,714	2,617	--
Other	264	1,788	1,177	2,670	1,394
Total	36,120	89,348	86,384	88,762	99,442
Bulbs:					
United States	233,305	222,638	337,350	356,701	372,617
Belgium	--	378	678	211	1,681
France	--	--	939	2,295	3,542
West Germany	1,542	4,047	15,820	14,256	22,047
Netherlands	17,286	33,214	46,956	47,700	75,798
Sweden	6,631	13,464	19,567	27,556	--
Switzerland	117	53	261	1,275	2,411
Finland	--	3,572	14,150	24,953	28,700
United Kingdom	--	--	14,631	21,920	19,884
Canada	2,386	7,095	4,836	18,378	25,506
Australia	--	--	--	5,328	7,308
New Zealand	--	--	--	675	3,467
Korea	25	--	20	--	2,858
Formosa	239	683	--	303	261
Hong Kong	408	181	28	464	158
Philippine Republic	372	--	306	403	767
Other	291	2,813	5,059	9,114	39,617
Total	262,602	288,138	460,601	531,532	606,622

Source: Annual Return of Foreign Trade of Japan.

Japan: Value of principal seed imports by country of origin,
1952 to 1956

Item and country of origin	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
Vetch:					
United States	2,383	3	853	9,470	10,116
France	--	--	--	--	6,886
Italy	--	--	--	7,994	--
United Kingdom	--	--	3,549	2,900	--
Lebanon	--	--	--	--	8,242
Korea	12,300	--	12,001	3,539	9,601
Total	14,683	3	16,403	23,903	34,845
Grass and Pasturage:					
United States	11,065	39,361	145,573	281,527	123,976
Canada	13,322	--	51,152	11,995	14,982
France	12	6,100	397	172	60,719
Italy	54,744	--	--	62,611	4,384
Netherlands	--	--	--	16,154	--
Sweden	--	15,718	10,865	--	--
United Kingdom	--	--	63,727	118,129	97,035
Hong Kong	--	--	--	31,783	--
Korea	20,002	1,800	--	7,701	--
New Zealand	193,941	107,553	16,787	1,697	39
Other	24	3,265	835	9,285	2,101
Total	293,110	173,797	289,305	541,054	303,236
Vegetable and Flower:					
United States	13,470	27,589	124,932	71,631	45,525
Denmark	1,128	4,342	8,840	9,626	14,687
France	--	500	633	25	322
West Germany	--	267	1,620	3,106	3,225
Netherlands	1,886	7,609	31,191	11,334	21,949
Formosa	--	--	33	--	3,973
Hong Kong	--	--	--	--	1,214
Other	445	385	2,666	5,123	7,800
Total	16,929	40,692	169,915	100,845	98,695
Seeds for planting, n.e.s.:					
United States	3,892	6,220	40,536	11,567	8,483
Denmark	1,606	8	--	111	1,383
France	156	697	1,178	717	911
West Germany	94	--	53	14	1,445
Italy	--	--	2,400	197	--
Netherlands	675	1,700	594	475	--
Australia	372	2,028	1,436	428	756
Formosa	--	--	1,353	20	1,797
Korea	--	--	420	22,364	20,120
Other	44	39	352	182	327
Total	6,839	10,692	48,322	36,075	35,222
Sugar beet:					
United States	522	23,364	90,361	63,231	39
Denmark	--	4,114	--	5,694	4,717
France	53	--	--	--	--
West Germany	--	147	22	17	81
Italy	--	--	--	--	8
Netherlands	--	--	--	--	103
Total	575	27,625	90,383	68,942	4,948
Bulbs:					
United States	8,688	7,512	3,653	1,856	5,631
France	--	56	--	--	--
Netherlands	41,102	36,620	63,483	19,178	59,314
United Kingdom	81	1,722	97	303	419
Australia	--	--	--	--	20
Okinawa	16,086	--	--	--	--
Ryukyu Islands	31,924	37,792	--	--	--
Total	97,881	83,732	67,233	21,337	65,384

Source: Annual Return of Foreign Trade of Japan.

Japan: Estimated pasture seed supply and demand, fiscal year, April 1, 1957 to March 31, 1958

Kind of seed	Production	Imports			Total Supply	Domestic disappearance		
		U.S.	Other	Total		Hokkaido	Other	Total
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
Alfalfa	-	10	-	10	10	7	3	10
Alsike clover	-	15	-	15	15	10	5	15
Ladino clover	-	100	-	100	100	50	50	100
Red clover	200	650	-	650	850	750	100	850
White clover	10	5	-	5	15	3	12	15
Common vetch	-	200	1/100	300	300	-	300	300
Timothy	320	-	-	-	320	300	20	320
Orchardgrass	170	-	-	-	170	60	110	170
Italian ryegrass	-	50	-	50	50	10	40	50
Perennial ryegrass	-	20	-	20	20	5	15	20
K 31 F	-	30	-	30	30	20	10	30
Bromegrass	-	10	-	10	10	5	5	10
Redtop	20	-	-	-	20	-	20	20
Kentucky bluegrass	20	-	-	-	20	-	20	20
Sudangrass	10	20	-	20	30	2	28	30
Fodder beet	10	-	2/30	30	40	39	1	40
Rutabaga	100	-	-	-	100	95	5	100
Fodder turnip	200	-	-	-	200	120	80	200

1/ From France, New Zealand, Italy, and South Korea. 2/ Mostly from Denmark; some from West Germany.

Source: Japanese Seed Importers Conference.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

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